

REMARKS

In the final Office Action dated June 22, 2005, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-11 and 13-33 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,801,919 to Hunt et al. ("Hunt"). Hunt was filed on July 27, 2001 and the present application was filed August 31, 2001. However, as amply demonstrated by the enclosed Rule 131 Declarations, the inventors Salmon and Kilroy conceived of and reduced to practice the inventions claimed in claims 1-11 and 13-33 before the filing date of Hunt. As such, Hunt is removed as prior art. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all claims is therefore requested.

To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the applicant's undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

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Diane M. Torniali 11-22-05
Diane M. Torniali Date